

# Electro-News

## Powered by APS

### Training Communiqué

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#### Fact Finder: Facts about Infectious Diseases

**H**ow diseases are transmitted is often misunderstood and many times cause a surge of panic amongst the public. High areas of concern within APS are MRSA and Hepatitis.

MRSA is the new “super-bug”, which is outlined in many medical magazines as an energized staph infection. Staph infections are transmitted through an open sore or cut. MRSA is mainly seen in hospitals and long-term care facilities but recently there has been a spike of infection in athletes and with children that attend day care facilities. The most effective way to prevent the spread of MRSA is good hygiene. Regular hand washing is essential, especially before and after visiting a hospital or long-term care facility.

***The most effective way to prevent the spread of MRSA is good hygiene.***

Covering all wounds and avoiding contact with your client's wounds or soiled bandages and linens is an imperative part of personal prevention. When in doubt don protective gear (gloves) specifically when handling clients with open wounds or sores.

Hepatitis is a disease that causes an inflammation of the liver. This disease is broken down into three sectors to include Hepatitis A, B and C.

Hepatitis A is the strain that is referred to as the “viral Hepatitis”. The virus is excreted out of the infected persons stool. It can be transmitted through contact with unclean water, food, excrement, blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. If you come into contact with any of the above mentioned items, wash your hands with warm, soapy water as the first step in the prevention of spreading the disease.

Both Hepatitis B and C are spread through contact of blood or bodily fluid. The number one preventative step if a worker comes into contact with their client's blood or bodily fluids is to wash their hands with warm, soapy water.

There is no vaccination currently available for the hepatitis C disease. Vigilance on the part of the worker is a key component in protecting themselves. All forms of Hepatitis are more of a concern to health care workers who have direct and continuous contact with infected individuals. An APS field investigator should take precautions, such as wearing gloves and regular hand washing after home visits are made.

Please review the websites listed below which were used as reference material to better educate yourselves on infectious diseases.

[www.healthline.com/adamcontent/mrsa-infection](http://www.healthline.com/adamcontent/mrsa-infection)

[www.healthline.com/adamcontent/hepatitis-a#prevention](http://www.healthline.com/adamcontent/hepatitis-a#prevention)

[www.healthline.com/adamcontent/hepatitis-c/2#prevention](http://www.healthline.com/adamcontent/hepatitis-c/2#prevention)

#### APS Spotlight



**Rex Critchfield**

**DAAS Assistant Director**

**My goals** for APS for SFY 2009, given that '09 looks like it will be a grim year budget-wise, are to ensure that our newly created training component for APS provides timely and relevant training for all staff. This training function had been a victim of prior budget cuts, but it has to be a priority now more than ever. My second goal is to see if we can “grow” more partnerships with area agencies on aging around the state, similar to the one developed in Maricopa County, that will allow an APS case, once the safety factors are taken care of, to move to the area agency for case management purposes, allowing APS to close the case sooner, thus helping to reduce caseloads.

**Personally**, I've recently developed a taste for wine – cabernet sauvignons from Napa in particular. My favorite has been a 1999 Paul Hobbs Cabernet Sauvignon, Beckstoffer To Kalon Vineyard Oakville. If any of you know where I can get my hands on another bottle, please let me know. If you have a favorite cab you would like to suggest for me to try, I am open to that too.



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EVERY CHILD, ADULT, AND FAMILY  
WILL BE SAFE AND ECONOMICALLY SECURE**